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OLC 73-0887

24 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Senator Symington's Comments on Colby Confirmation
Hearing on 25 July 1973

1. Following Mr. Duckett's briefing of the Senate Armed Services Committee this afternoon, Senator Symington drew me aside and made the following points regarding Mr. Colby's appearance tomorrow:

a. Senator Kennedy plans to attend and raise certain questions but we don't know whether he will insist on remaining during the ensuing discussion.

b. His main focus will probably be on Watergate but he may raise questions regarding Phoenix.

c. In any event Mr. Colby should insist that in whatever circumstances he was merely carrying out national policy and/or orders of higher authority. [Suggest he try to be ready for such questions as from whom, when and where the orders were received in the case of the more controversial activities.]

d. It would be best if Mr. Colby did not, in replying to Senator Kennedy, rely on extensive documentation. He had best provide short and factual answers and go into detail only in response to further questions.

e. He should at all times "keep his cool" in the face of provocative questions.

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25X1 2. Senator Symington also raised again the question of our personnel in Cambodia. I insisted (after checking with Mr. Shackley) that we had only about [] people all told and none were engaged in paramilitary activities--they were merely intelligence officers and a few communicators and support personnel. Senator Symington repeated his earlier remark that we should "get them out." I protested that they were merely carrying out a routine intelligence mission. He wanted to know what intelligence targets there were in Cambodia--missiles or what. I said I wasn't sure of the targets but was sure we were simply satisfying collection requirements. He said find out what requirements and from whom. He added that Mr. Colby might get questions about this tomorrow.

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